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ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus for exercising access control over
television programs using a parental control user interface that
has different functions is provided. The method requires a
password to enter into a master mode for obtaining access to all
the functions of the parental control user interface. Once in
10 the master mode, the user may enter a criterion for blocking a
television program from being viewed or recorded or the user can
override an already blocked television program.

15 If a user, not in the master mode, attempts to watch or
record a program that meets the blocking criterion and the
program does not meet the overriding criterion, a prompt is
provided to the user to enter the password. Upon entering a
correct password, the program is unblocked.

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